

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/893,185	SUZUKI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Felix E Suarez	2857	

**-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 04 December 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 16,19-24 and 27-29.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 January 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
  - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)          |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____             |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____  | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                             |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
|  | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 16, 19-24, 27-29 are allowable.
2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of

allowable subject matter:

Claims 16, 19-24, 27-29 are allowable because the prior art, particularly Dowling et al. [U.S. Patent No. 6,548,967] (hereafter Dowling), Lys et al. [U.S. Patent No. 6,459,919] (hereafter Lys), Mueller et al. [U.S. Patent No 6,016,038] (hereafter Mueller), Johnson et al. [U.S. Patent No 5,629,869] (hereafter Johnson), Gotou et al. [U.S. Patent Application Publication No 2002/0013635] (hereafter Gotou) and Watterson et al. [U.S. Patent Application Publication No 2002/0022551] (hereafter Watterson) fail to teach or suggest an appliance maintenance apparatus for maintaining a plurality of appliances each including a plurality of light indicators respectively emitting lights showing the operation states of each of said appliances, comprising:

a remote diagnosis control unit for remotely diagnosing said one or more appliances, a communication unit for communicating with said remote diagnosis control unit.

Dowling, Lys, Mueller, Johnson, Gotou and Watterson also fail to tech or suggest an appliance remote maintenance system for maintaining a plurality of appliances from a remote location, each of said appliances including a plurality of light indicators respectively emitting lights showing the operation states of each of said appliances, comprising:

said remote diagnosis control apparatus further comprises judging means for judging whether to operate said reset switch after diagnosing said operation states of said appliances on the basis of said light information detected by said light detecting means and instruction transmitting means for transmitting through said public network to said appliance maintenance apparatus an instruction to operate said reset switch when said judging means judges to operate said reset switch.

**Conclusion**

**Prior Art**

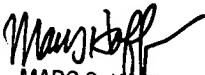
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix Suarez, whose telephone number is (703) 308-4926. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc Hoff can be reached on (703) 308-1677. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7382 for regular communications and (703) 308-7382 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

January 20, 2004

F.S.

  
MARC S. HOFF  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800